<u>What is claimed is:</u>

1 1. A method for executing a locked bus transaction in a multi-node system, comprising:

2   initiating a locked-bus transaction at a bus agent;

3   transmitting a locked-bus request to a first node controller; and

4   deferring the locked-bus transaction at the bus agent by said first node controller.

1 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

2   transmitting the locked-bus request from the first node controller to a second node

3 controller.

3. The method of claim 2 further comprising:

    preventing bus transactions on a bus coupled to said second node controller.

4. The method of claim 3 further comprising:

    performing the locked-bus transaction by the bus agent over the multi-node system.

1 5. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

2   asserting a signal to said bus agent by said first node controller to prevent said bus agent

3 from initiating a bus transaction.

1   6.   The method of claim 5 further comprising:

2   transmitting the locked-bus request from the first node controller to a second node controller.

1   7.   The method of claim 6 further comprising:

2   preventing bus transactions on a bus coupled to said second node controller.

1   8.   The method of claim 7 further comprising:

2   deasserting said signal to said bus agent by said first node controller.

1   9.   The method of claim 8 further comprising:

2   performing the locked-bus transaction by the bus agent over the multi-node system.

1   10.   A multi-node system comprising:

2   a bus agent to initiate a locked-bus transaction; and

3   a first node including a first bus and a first node controller to receive a locked-bus request and

4   defer the locked-bus transaction at the bus agent.

1   11.   The system of claim 10 further comprising:

2   a second node including a second bus and a second node controller to receive the locked-

3   bus request from the first node controller.

1   12.   The system of claim 11 wherein said second node controller is to prevent bus transactions

2   on said second bus.

1   13.   The system of claim 12 wherein the bus agent is to perform the locked-bus transaction

2   over the multi-node system.

1   14.   The system of claim 10 wherein said first node controller is to assert a signal to said bus

2   agent to prevent said bus agent from initiating a bus transaction.

1   15.   The system of claim 14 further comprising:

2   a second node including a second bus and a second node controller to receive the locked-bus

3   request from the first node controller.

1   16.   The system of claim 15 wherein said second node controller is to prevent bus transactions

2   on said second bus.

1   17.   The system of claim 16 wherein said first node controller is to deassert said signal to the

2   bus agent.

1   18.   The system of claim 17 wherein the bus agent is to perform the locked-bus transaction

2   over the multi-node system.

1   19.   A method for executing a locked bus transaction in a multi-node system, comprising:

2   initiating a locked-bus transaction at a bus agent;

3   transmitting a locked-bus request to a first node controller;

4   deferring the locked-bus transaction at the bus agent by said first node controller;

5   transmitting the locked-bus request from the first node controller to a switching agent;

6   and

7   preventing further transactions from said switching agent.

1   20.   The method of claim 19 further comprising:

2   performing the locked-bus transaction by the bus agent over the multi-node system via the

3   switching agent.

1   21.   A method for executing a locked bus transaction in a multi-node system, comprising:

2   initiating a locked-bus transaction at a bus agent for a first I/O node including a first I/O

3   device;

4   transmitting a locked-bus request to a first node controller; and

5   deferring the locked-bus transaction at the bus agent by said first node controller.

1   22.   The method of claim 21, further comprising:

2   transmitting the locked-bus request from the first node controller to the first I/O node.

1   23.   The method of claim 22, further comprising:

2   preventing transactions at the first I/O node for I/O devices coupled in said first I/O node.

1   24.   The method of claim 23,further comprising:

2   performing the locked-bus transaction by the bus agent over the multi-node system to the

3   first I/O device.